

GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL.

REMARKS

BY THE

LICENSING BODIES

ON THE

Recommendations and Opinions

OF THE

GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL.

(1875)

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ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND,
LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS, W.C.

7th January, 1876.

SIR,

The Council of this College, having referred to the consideration of the Court of Examiners your letter of the 10th of July last, and enclosed Copies of a Resolution adopted by the General Medical Council relative to the Teaching and Study of Pharmacy and Therapeutics, and the Court having reported, I am desired to communicate to you the following Resolution on the subject, adopted by the Council on the 20th ultimo, viz.:

"That, as recommended by the Court of Examiners, the Council concur in the opinion of the General Medical Council that the Teaching of Pharmacy should be an early, and the Teaching of Therapeutics a late course in the Curriculum of Professional Education."

I have the honour to be, SIR,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) EDWARD TRIMMER,

Secretary.

FRANCIS HAWKINS, Esq., M.D.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND,

LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS, W.C.

7th January, 1876.

SIR,

I have the honour to state to you, for the information of the General Council of Medical Education and Registration, that the documents, whose titles are subjoined, and which are received from the General Medical Council with your letters of the 5th and 17th of July last, were referred by the Council of this College to the Court of Examiners "to consider the same and report thereon."

The Reports from the Court of Examiners were presented to the Council of this College on the 20th ultimo, and having been, with scarcely any alteration, approved by the Council, it was Resolved :

" That it be referred to the President and Vice-Presidents to draw up a Letter, embodying the several Resolutions contained in the said Reports from the Court of Examiners in reply to Dr. HAWKINS'S Communications of the 5th and 17th of July last."

In accordance with this Resolution, I am directed to offer the following Observations on the "Recommendations and Opinions of the General Medical Council respecting Professional Examinations."

1. The Council concur in the Recommendation numbered 1.

2. The practice of the College accords with Recommendations 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 20, 21, and with 10 and 11, unless in the fact that in the Examination for the Diploma, if a Candidate have passed in Surgery and the other Surgical subjects, but have failed in the completely separate Examination in Medicine, he is not again examined in the former subjects; or if he have failed in those subjects, and have passed in Medicine, he is not again examined in Medicine.

3. The Recommendations numbered 4, 16, 18, are not applicable to the College.

4. Respecting the Recommendation numbered 7, the Examinations at the College are open to Visitation by the Fellows, and any other person may be admitted by permission of the Chairman of the Court or Board of Examiners; but it might be highly inconvenient if all the Members of the College could elaim admittance.

5. The Council are of opinion, that the security desired by the 8th Recommendation is obtained by the practice of the College; according to which the written questions are set by a Committee of the Court of Examiners, not less than four in number, in which each Examiner is called upon in turn to take part.

6. The Council are of opinion that it is not expedient that they should concur in the 22nd Recommendation; believing, as they do, that it would be wrong to permit so marked an inequality of Examinations as would be involved in submitting different Candidates to very different tests.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

REGISTRAR OF THE UNIVERSITY'S OFFICE,

OXFORD,

March 29th, 1876.

DEAR SIR,

I beg to transmit to you the accompanying Reports of the Hebdomadal Council of this University on the "Recommendations of the General Medical Council on the subject of Professional Examinations," and on the Reports of the Visitors of the Medical Examinations in Oxford.

I remain ever,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) E. T. TURNER.

The REGISTRAR of the Medical Council,

&c., &c.

REPORT OF MEDICAL COMMITTEE OF HEBDOMADAL COUNCIL
ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL,
AS REGARDS PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATION.

The Medical Committee of the Hebdomadal Council having, in accordance with the request of the Medical Council, June 22, 1875, considered the "Recommendations and Opinions of the General Medical Council on the subject of Professional Examination," Report as follows :—

"The Committee concur to a certain extent in Recommendation 1, 'That it is desirable that the different Licensing Bodies should combine their Examinations, when this is practicable, so as to secure that the knowledge of every practitioner whose name appears on the Register shall have been tested in all the subjects of Professional Education which the Council has determined to be essential, viz.:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Anatomy. | 6. Practical Pharmacy. |
| 2. General Anatomy. | 7. Medicine. |
| 3. Physiology. | 8. Surgery. |
| 4. Chemistry. | 9. Midwifery. |
| 5. Materia Medica. | 10. Forensic Medicine.'" |

With respect to this List of Subjects required of all Candidates for a Diploma by the Medical Council, the Committee observe :

First. That Physics and Botany are not included, and that the Medical Council apparently contemplates (p. 13, § 4) that there should be an Examination in these subjects together with "Natural History" before the First Professional Examination, *e.g.*, that there should be three Examinations, one in Physics, Chemistry, and Botany, one in Biology, one in the Practical subjects of Medicine and Surgery. Upon this point the Committee have to say that in their opinion the subjects of Physics and Botany should, with certain limitations, be required from University Students, but they are not of opinion that in the case of such Students these subjects should of necessity be relegated to a separate Examination.

Secondly. That the "Prineiples of Surgery" are required by the Statutes of the University, whereas the Medical Councel recommends "Systematic and Clinical Surgery." The attention of the Medical Examiners should be drawn to this point ; and the new statute which will shortly be necessary should be altered, if desirable, on their reeommendation.

Thirdly. That it would seem just that if Candidates pass an Examination which suffieiently tests their knowledge in the whole of Praetieal Surgery, they should have a separate Diploma to that effect, if they wish it ; and if a "Double Qualifieation " is required in the public service.

Fourthly. That if no Conjoint Board be formed in England, and if the Reeommendation of the Medieal Councel that every Candidate should pass both in Medicine and Surgery be earried out, then the University in eommon with all the Licensing Bodies will be foreed to adopt the course just named, and should institute therefore one Licence in Surgery additional to all those that already exist in England, or enter into eombination with some Surgieal Examining Body already existing.

Fifthly. The Committee think it right to remark that Hygiene, though for fifteen years a compulsory subject in the Examination for the M.B. in Oxford, is not in the above List of Subjects, and they agree in this arrangement so far as an ordinary Diploma is coneerned.

The praetice and Regulations of the University are not at variance with Reeommendations 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 21.

As to 17, the University requires that the Examiners should be satisfied that the Students have had ample opportunities for study in approved Medieal Schools : and without expressing any doubt as to the general expediency of the provisions of this elause, the Committee do not think that they are required for this University.

The Committee eoncur in 18, 20, 22.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

EMMANUEL COLLEGE LODGE,

CAMBRIDGE,

9th February, 1876.

SIR,

I beg to forward you herewith the Replies prepared by the Board of Medical Studies of Cambridge University to the inquiries addressed by you, on the part of the General Council of Medical Education, as to the extent to which the Recommendations of the Council respecting Professional Examinations are carried into practice at Cambridge.

I am, SIR,

Very faithfully yours,

(Signed) GEORGE PHEAR,

Vice-Chancellor.

Dr. HAWKINS,

*Registrar,**General Medical Council.*

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MEDICAL STUDIES ON
“PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATION,” BEING SEC. V. OF
“RECOMMENDATIONS AND OPINIONS OF THE GENERAL
MEDICAL COUNCIL,” p. 12.

The Board of Medical Studies having had before them a letter addressed by the Registrar of the General Medical Council to the Registry of the University, enquiring whether the University has “any observations to offer to the Council on their Recommendations respecting Professional Examinations;” and also, “how far” the University has “been able to carry into practice such Recommendations,” beg leave to state that they have gone over the several Recommendations of the Council, and—

As regards Recommendation I :

The University has already entered into a Scheme for combining the Examinations of all the Licensing Medical Authorities of England.

As regards Recommendation II :

The information requested has been already furnished to the Medical Council.

As regards Recommendations III, IV, V, VI :

The practice of the University is in accordance with these Recommendations.

As regards Recommendation VII :

The Oral Examinations are open to all Members of the University, Undergraduates as well as Graduates.

As regards Recommendations VIII, IX, X, XI :

The practice of the University is in accordance with these Recommendations.

As regards Recommendation XII :

In the Second and Third Examinations for the Degree of Bachelor of Medicine the Regius Professor of Physic is *ex-officio* an Examiner. In both cases he is associated with three other Examiners.

In the Examination for the Degree of Master in Surgery (Candidates for which must have previously passed the three Examinations for M.B.) the Professor of Anatomy is *ex-officio* an Examiner. He is associated with two other Examiners.

With the exception of the two *ex-officio* Examiners, all the Examiners are appointed annually by the Senate of the University on the nomination of the Board of Medical Studies. They are usually reappointed for a second year.

A very large proportion of the Examiners are unconnected with the Medical School of Cambridge, and some of them are not Members of the University.

As regards Recommendation XIII :

The three Examinations for the Degree of Bachelor of Medicine and the Examination for the Degree of Master in Surgery are held at stated periods fixed by public Regulations.

The "Acts" for the Degrees of M.B. and M.D. are held in Term-time after public notice of eight days at the least.

As regards Recommendations XIV, XV :

These Recommendations are complied with in the form prescribed in 14.

It seems undesirable that the names of unsuccessful Candidates should be made known, as they would be if both these Recommendations were complied with.

As regards Recommendation XVI :

In the last three years and a half, out of thirty-nine Students who have graduated in Medicine, one only had not previously graduated in Arts.

The University does not require previous graduation in Arts. But Students in Medicine are required to pass Examinations equivalent to those required for the B.A. degree.

It is thought that the Course of Study required for graduation in Arts (modified as it is from time to time with reference to Arts alone) may not always be most suitable as a preparation for the study of Medicine.

As regards Recommendation XVII:

Examinations of their Classes by Teachers are usual in the Medical School of Cambridge, but are not required by Regulations of the University.

As regards Recommendation XVIII:

The area of Examination is defined in Botany, Zoology, and Chemistry.

(Schedules are sent with this Report).

As regards Recommendations XIX, XX, XXI:

The practice of the University is in accordance with these Recommendations.

As regards Recommendation XXII:

All Candidates are actually called upon to perform dissections, and all Candidates for the Degree of Master in Surgery are required to perform operations on the dead subject.

(Signed) G. E. PAGET,

*Chairman of the Board of Medical Studies,
University of Cambridge.*

CAMBRIDGE,

February 1876.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON,

BURLINGTON GARDENS, W.

May 11th, 1876.

SIR,

Having laid before the Senate of the University of London your letter of May 1st, together with the "Recommendations and Opinions" it enclosed, as to which the University is invited to make any Observations it may desire, I am directed to reply that as the greater part of these Recommendations are in full accordance with the principles on which the University has acted from the first,—in regard alike to Preliminary and Professional Education, and to the mode of conducting Professional Examinations,—the Senate have only to express the hope that the General Medical Council will be able to secure their adoption by all the other Licensing Bodies.

The only one of these Recommendations from which the Senate would desire to express their dissent is that which relates to the publicity of Oral Examinations. As they cannot think that any benefits are likely to accrue from such publicity, which will not be more than counterbalanced by what they deem its inevitable disadvantages, they would deprecate the general introduction of so important a change, at least until a fair trial shall have been given to it by such Examining Bodies as may be willing to adopt it tentatively.

I remain,

DEAR SIR,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed)

WILLIAM B. CARPENTER,

*Registrar.**The REGISTRAR of the General Medical Council.*

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, EDINBURGH.

OBSERVATIONS BY THE COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH, ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS
AND OPINIONS OF THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL
ON THE SUBJECTS OF PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION, OF
REGISTRATION OF MEDICAL STUDENTS, AND OF PRO-
FESSIONAL EDUCATION AND EXAMINATION.

I.—PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION.

The Council of the College approve of the Recommendations of the General Medical Council, and the College have given effect to them in the Regulations for their Preliminary Examination, which is carried out in conjunction with the Royal College of Surgeons.

II.—REGISTRATION OF MEDICAL STUDENTS.

Cases have frequently been brought under the notice of the Council, where, in consequence of ignorance, Students who have passed the Preliminary Examination have failed to register in the manner prescribed by the General Medical Council, and have in consequence been exposed to much inconvenience. The Council would therefore recommend that the Secretaries or Registrars of the different Boards by which Preliminary Examinations are conducted, be instructed to send to the Branch Registrars, at the termination of each Examination, the names of the successful Candidates; and that these names be entered in the Register of Medical Students without further application on the part of the Students.

The Council would also recommend that the second half of the first paragraph of Section 11 should run thus:—"Any Candidate (not exempted from Registration) who had not been engaged in Medical Studies for at least four years subsequent to Registration."

III.—AGE FOR LICENCE TO PRACTISE.

The Council would recommend that Section 2 should stand as follows :—
“That no Licence be obtained at an earlier period than at the end of the fourth year of Medical Study subsequent to the Registration of the Candidate as a Medical Student.”

IV.—PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION.

The Council approve of the Recommendations of the General Medical Council under this head, but would suggest that the Certificate of Vaccination might be granted by any Registered Practitioner.

V.—PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATION.

The Council of the College, while agreeing generally with the Recommendations of the General Medical Council, and the College having given effect to most of them, beg to make the following remarks :—

Section 2. The Council, while fully concurring in the desirability of the study of Pharmacy being separated from, and preceding the study of Therapeutics, are not prepared at present to recommend a definite regulation to that effect.

Section 7. The Council are not at present prepared to agree to the Recommendation that the Oral Examinations should be open to the Members of the College, particularly as the Examinations are inspected and reported upon by Visitors from the General Medical Council.

Section 17. The Council, while fully recognizing the importance of attendance on Class Examinations, are not prepared, in the present state of Medical Teaching, to make attendance on such Examinations compulsory.

In name and by authority of the Council,

(Signed) JOHN WYLLIE,

Secretary.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH,

February 18, 1876.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, EDINBURGH.

OBSERVATIONS BY THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS
OF EDINBURGH, ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND
OPINIONS OF THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL ON
THE SUBJECTS OF PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION, OF
REGISTRATION OF MEDICAL STUDENTS, AND OF PRO-
FESSIONAL EDUCATION AND EXAMINATION.

The College having had under their consideration the Recommendations and Opinions of the General Medical Council, revised to July 1875, transmitted to them, beg to offer the following Observations upon Branch V of the Recommendations relating to Professional Examination :

I.—That in the List of Subjects specified in No. 1, the College recommend that Clinical Medicine and Clinical Surgery should be inserted after Medicine and Surgery respectively.

II.—The College approve generally of Recommendations Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21 and 22, as agreeing with the practice of the College in the past.

III.—In regard to No. 7, the College are of opinion that the Oral Examinations are best conducted in the presence of the Examiners only, and such persons as may be officially deputed to visit the Examinations.

IV.—No. 13. The College have always hitherto, except in special cases, held their Professional Examinations at stated periods, which have

been notified in the printed Regulations issued to Candidates; and have always endeavoured to discourage Special Examinations as much as possible.

V.—No. 18. The College beg leave to state that Botany and Zoology are not included in their Curriculum, but they approve of the limitation of the area of Examination in these subjects where these are examined on; and in Chemistry are about to publish a programme of limitation. In Materia Medica they have always limited their Examination to the area of the *British Pharmacopœia*.

In name and by authority of the College,

(Signed) HENRY D. LITTLEJOHN, M.D.,

President.

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, EDINBURGH,

5th April, 1876.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND OPINIONS OF THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL, FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

The following Observations in reference to the Recommendations and Opinions of the General Medical Council on the subjects of Preliminary Examination, of Registration of Medical Students, and of Professional Education and Examination, revised to June, 1875, were approved of by the Medical Faculty.

The Medical Faculty have had under consideration the Recommendations and Opinions of the General Medical Council, and have to offer the following observations thereon :—

1. PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION.

The Faculty would recommend, with the view of introducing more uniformity into the Examinations of the different Bodies, that in the Compulsory Examination in Latin, and in the Examination on one of the Optional Languages, Greek, French, and German, the Candidate should be required to translate simple English sentences into the language examined on ; also that the Examination in Geometry should be extended so as to embrace the first three books of Euclid.

2. REGISTRATION OF MEDICAL STUDENTS.

The Faculty would recommend that the Registration of Medical Students should date from the time when the Student has passed the Examination qualifying for Registration, and not from the date of enrolment in the book kept by the Branch Registrar.

3. AGE FOR LICENCE TO PRACTISE.

The Faculty would suggest that the 2nd section should read "That no Licence be obtained at an earlier period than until the end of the fourth year of Medical Study, subsequent to the date qualifying for the Registration of a Candidate as a Medical Student."

4. PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION.

Sections 1, 2, 3, and 4, approved of.

Sections 5 and 6.—The Faculty think that the Certificates of Vaccination required by the Licensing Bodies might be given by any Registered Medical Man engaged in practice.

5. PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATION.

Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, approved of.

Sections 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 19, 21, and 22, are carried into practice in the University Examinations.

On the other Sections the Faculty have some observations to offer.

Section 7.—As the Examinations are periodically inspected and reported on by Visitors appointed by the General Medical Council, publicity is secured without throwing the Examinations open to the general body of Medical and Surgical Graduates.

Section 11.—The question of re-examining a Candidate in all subjects, who has been rejected for failure in any one, ought not to be dogmatically settled by regulation, but should be left to the judgment of the Examining Board.

Section 12.—This may very properly apply to cases where Examiners are periodically elected, but cannot apply to those in which Examiners act *ex-officio*.

Section 16.—The Preliminary Examinations at the Universities should be of such a character as to insure that each Candidate has had a good

general education. The Faculty do not consider that the possession of a Degree in Arts should be exacted as a necessary step to a Medical Degree.

Section 17.—It is the practice in the University of Edinburgh to give every encouragement to Students to attend the Examinations in the Medical Classes, but the Faculty is not prepared to recommend that attendance on these Examinations should be made a necessary condition before a Certificate of Attendance on the Class is granted.

Section 18.—The area of Examination in Chemistry, Botany, and Natural History, is limited and defined in the University of Edinburgh. The Faculty is of opinion that the Examination in *Materia Medica* should include all the articles comprised in the current edition of the *British Pharmacopœia*.

Section 20.—The University has adopted the general principle of this Recommendation.

FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS, GLASGOW.

OBSERVATIONS BY THE FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND
SURGEONS OF GLASGOW, ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS
AND OPINIONS OF THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL ON
THE SUBJECTS OF PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION, OF
REGISTRATION OF MEDICAL STUDENTS, AND OF PROFES-
SIONAL EDUCATION AND EXAMINATION.

The Faculty have to submit the following Observations on the Recommendations of the General Medical Council respecting Professional Examinations, &c.

I.—Nos. 5, 6. The Faculty would suggest that the Student should produce evidence, not only that he has passed the Preliminary Examination, but that he has commenced Medical Study. The following alteration on the last clause of No. 6 would effect this object; “a statement of his place of Medical Study,” to be changed into—“evidence that he has commenced Medical Study.”

II.—No. 11. The following alteration on this Recommendation is suggested; that the clause—“whose name had not been entered in the Medical Students’ Register at least four years previously;” should read—“who has not been engaged in Professional Study for forty-five months subsequent to his Registration as a Student.”

III.—No. 2. The adoption of the last suggestion would necessitate a corresponding alteration on this rule.

IV.—3. The Faculty approve generally of this Recommendation. By a Regulation of the Faculty no qualifying course of Clinical instruction can be attended earlier than the beginning of the Second Year of Study.

V.—No. 7. The Examinations of the Faculty are not open to the Fellows generally : at the same time the Faculty do not see any great objection to such an arrangement, provided any good object would be gained thereby, to compensate for some obvious disadvantages which such a regulation would involve.

V.—No. 17. The Faculty have not yet enforced this Regulation ; and they see some practical difficulties in giving effect to it.

VI.—No. 18. Of the four subjects here specified, only two, Chemistry and Materia Medica, form part of the Curriculum prescribed by the Faculty. The area of Examinations in Chemistry has been defined in the Regulations, but it seems to the Faculty to be less necessary to do so in the case of Materia Medica. The range of Examination on that subject should, at all events, not be so limited as to exclude any article in the *Pharmacopæia*.

VII.—No. 2. The Faculty would suggest that a carefully drawn code of instructions should be placed in the hands of the Visitors of Examinations.

(Signed) ANDREW FERGUS,

President.

April 14th, 1876.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW.

8, BRANDON PLACE, GLASGOW,

18th March, 1876.

SIR,

Referring to your letter of the 18th July, 1875, enclosing a Copy of a Resolution, adopted by the General Medical Council, in relation to the teaching and study of Pharmacy and Therapeutics; I am directed by the Medical Faculty of the University of Glasgow to forward the enclosed.

I am, SIR,

Yours truly,

(Signed) P. A. SIMPSON, M.D.,

Dean of Medical Faculty.

F. HAWKINS, Esq., M.D.

The Medical Faculty of the University of Glasgow, concurring in the Resolution of the Medical Council:—

“That it is desirable that the instruction in Pharmacy should be separated from that in Therapeutics, and that the former should be obtained at an early, and the latter at a late, period of the Course.”

Obtained, in April 1872, the approval of the Senate and of the University Court, for the institution of a separate class of Practical Pharmacy to be taught during the Second Summer Session. Such a Class has, accordingly, been carried on during the last four years. Instruction in Therapeutics, the Medical Faculty is of opinion, may be conveniently given during the Third Winter Session.

(Signed) P. A. SIMPSON, M.D.,

Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.

KING & QUEEN'S COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, IRELAND.

REPORT OF THE KING AND QUEEN'S COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
IN IRELAND, ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND OPINIONS
OF THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL, ON THE SUBJECTS
OF PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION, THE REGISTRATION
OF MEDICAL STUDENTS, AND OF PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATION AND EXAMINATION.—*Revised to June, 1875.*

PART I.

The College offer no comment on the subjects dealt with in this part of the Recommendations, except with regard to the Preliminary Examination (page 5), on which the College would observe that they reserve to themselves their right to resume the holding of a Preliminary Examination in Arts at a future time, should they see fit to do so; and are further of opinion that all Preliminary Examinations which do not include Greek as a compulsory subject are defective.

PARTS II & III.

No observations made.

PART IV.

1. The College consider "Three Winter and Two Summer Sessions" too short a period of study in the Clinical wards of an Hospital, and beg to refer the Council to the following Regulation of the College, "That each Candidate for the Licence of the College shall produce Certificates of having attended for twenty-seven months a recognized Medico-Chirurgical Hospital."

2. The College concur with the Recommendation of the General Medical Council (June 26, 1875), "that the instruction in Pharmacy should be separated from that in Therapeutics, and that the former should be obtained at an early, and the latter at a later, period of the Professional Curriculum;" and with regard to the subjects for Education and Examination as tabulated in Part IV. No. 2, and Part V. No. 1, the College would observe that Certificates of all the ten subjects contained in the Schedule are required of Candidates by the By-laws of the College, with the exception of "General Anatomy and Practical Pharmacy."

The College make no observations on any other clause of Part IV., with the exception of No. 5, which entirely meets the approval of the College.

PART V.

1. The suggestion "that it is desirable that the different Licensing Bodies should combine their Examinations," meets entirely with the approval of the College: as the King and Queen's College of Physicians have repeatedly put upon record their desire to have a Conjoint Board of Examiners established for Ireland.

2-5. No comment made.

6. The College approve the principle involved in the Recommendation that there should be "two Examiners, or one Examiner with an Assessor, present at every Oral Examination."

8. In preference to this proposal the College would adopt the plan of setting the Candidate twice as many printed questions as he is required to give answers to, in order to allow him a sufficient choice of subjects to answer.

9. In preference to this Recommendation the College are of opinion that it would be far better that there should be additional Examiners in each subject.

10-16. No observations offered.

17. With regard to this paragraph, the College would beg to observe that, while they approve the occasional Examinations of Students by the Teacher whose course of lectures they are attending, they entirely

disapprove the Recommendation "that each Certificate should include a statement from the Teacher or Teachers that the Candidate had satisfactorily attended Examinations, from time to time, held on the subject of study to which the Certificate relates."

Recommendations 19, 20, and 21 meet the approval of the College.

22. The College entirely disapprove this Recommendation, as they believe that Dissections and Operations upon the dead body should be *compulsory* upon every Candidate.

PART VI.

On the subject of the supervision of Examinations the College abstain from making any comment, as they are informed by their Representative on the General Medical Council that the subject is engaging the consideration and attention of the Executive Committee of the Council.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, IRELAND.

OBSERVATIONS MADE BY THE COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, IRELAND, ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND OPINIONS OF THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL ON THE SUBJECTS OF PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION, OF REGISTRATION OF MEDICAL STUDENTS, AND OF PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND EXAMINATION.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS,
IRELAND,

February 1876.

SIR,

In reference to the Recommendations and Opinions of the General Council of Medical Education and Registration of the United Kingdom, on the subjects of Preliminary Examination, of Registration of Medical Students, and of Professional Education and Examination, as transmitted by you to the Registrar of this College, on July 28th, 1875, and your letter of the same date, requesting any Observations which this College may have to offer on these Recommendations, I am directed by the President and Council of this College to forward you the enclosed copy of their Educational By-Laws, together with the following Observations on certain clauses in the Recommendations of the General Medical Council. In some instances, it will be perceived that this College had long since anticipated the wishes of the General Medical Council; whilst in others, this Council have framed Regulations in accordance with the Recommendations submitted, from time to time for their consideration, by the General Medical Council. For facility of reference,

in the following paper, the views of the General Medical Council, as expressed in their circular, are placed in numerical order, and after each Recommendation follows the comment of this Council.

Your obedient Servant,
(Signed) JAMES STANNUS HUGHES,
Secretary.

Dr. HAWKINS.

“PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS.

“1.—That Testimonials of Proficiency granted by the National Educational Bodies, according to the subjoined List, may be accepted; the Council reserving the right to add to or take from the List.

(A Degree in Arts of any University of the United Kingdom, or of the Colonies, or of such other Universities as may be specially recognized from time to time by the Medical Council, is considered a sufficient Testimonial of Proficiency).”

Hereupon follows a long list of Examining Bodies whose Examinations are stated to meet the views of the Medical Council; but the Council of this College are at a loss to ascertain the grounds upon which the General Medical Council have arrived at this conclusion—inasmuch as there is no evidence adduced of their having had these Examinations inspected, and reported upon; whilst, on the other hand, Examining Bodies of undoubted repute have been omitted from the list.

“2.—That it be recommended to the Licensing Boards not to accept the Certificate of Proficiency in General (preliminary) Education from any of the Bodies, the names of which are contained in the list annually circulated, unless such Certificate testify that the Student to whom it has been granted has been examined in—

1. English Language, including Grammar and Composition.
2. Arithmetic, including Vulgar and Decimal Fractions, Algebra, including Simple Equations.
3. Geometry: First two books of Euclid.
4. Latin, including Translation and Grammar.

“And in one of the following optional subjects—

Greek.

French.

German.

Natural Philosophy, including Mechanics, Hydrostatics, and Pneumatics.”

With reference to this Recommendation the Council of this College beg leave to state that they cannot (in accordance with their By-Laws) accept the Certificate of Proficiency in General (Preliminary) Education, from any of the Bodies enumerated in the list circulated by the General Medical Council, whose Curriculum, in addition to these first four obligatory subjects, does not include “Greek” as a compulsory subject.

“REGISTRATION OF MEDICAL STUDENTS.

- “1.—Every Medical Student shall be registered in the manner prescribed by the General Medical Council.
 - 2.—No Medical Student shall be registered until he has passed a Preliminary Examination, as required by the General Medical Council.
 - 3.—The commencement of the course of Professional Study recognized by any of the Qualifying Bodies, shall not be reckoned as dating earlier than fifteen days before the date of Registration.
 - 9.—The several Branch Councils shall have power to admit special exceptions to the foregoing Regulations as to Registration, for reasons which shall appear to them satisfactory.
 - 11.—The several Qualifying Bodies are recommended not to admit, after October, 1870, to the final Examination for a Qualification under the Medical Acts, any Candidate (not exempted from Registration) whose name had not been entered in the Medical Students' Register at least four years previously.
- In the case of Candidates from other than Schools of the United Kingdom, the Branch Councils shall have power to admit exceptions to this recommendation.”

With reference to the foregoing Recommendations this Council would wish to remark that the history of their College proves, beyond question, the great importance it has, from its foundation, attached to a sound Preliminary Education on the part of Candidates for its Qualifications;

since the incorporation of this College up to the present date, its authorities having invariably insisted upon Candidates for their Licence producing satisfactory evidence of a sound Preliminary Education. With reference to Section 3 of the foregoing Recommendations, this College has always encouraged its students to pass a Preliminary Examination previous to the commencement of their Professional Studies, and in the vast majority of cases this practice has been observed. Exceptional cases, however, have arisen, where it has been considered expedient (and that in the interest of a sound Preliminary Education) to relax the stringency of this rule. Upon such cases this Council feel themselves to be competent judges, and therefore must decline to forego their hitherto unquestioned prerogative, in favor of any other authority, as recommended in Sections 9 and 11.

“PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION.

“3.—That it be recommended to the several Licensing Bodies that the Courses of Instruction required by them be framed in such a manner as to secure a due share of attention, both to Preparatory Branches, and to those more strictly connected with the Practice of Medicine and Surgery; and that it be suggested accordingly to these Bodies that their Regulations should be such as to prevent attendance upon Lectures from interfering with Hospital and Clinical Study.”

The Council of this College beg leave to state that the regulations in force in this City have always been such as to prevent the possibility of any interference similar to that alluded to.

“PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATION.

“6.—That not less than two Examiners, or one Examiner with an Assessor, should be present at every Oral Examination.”

In deference to the suggestions of the General Medical Council, the Council of this College have had their By-Law No. 12 altered, with a view of having two Examiners present at each Candidate's Examination, by which regulation each Candidate, at his Oral and Clinical Examination, undergoes the ordeal of eight Examiners.

“7.—That the Oral Examinations should be so far public as to be open at least to the Medical and Surgical Graduates, or Members of the Examining Body.”

The Examinations of this College have always been open to its Fellows and Licentiates.

"10.—That excellence in one or more subjects should not be allowed to compensate for failure in others.

11.—That if a Candidate be rejected for failure in any one subject, he should be re-examined in all."

The Examinations of this College are divided into two classes (Junior and Senior), and the Examination of each class includes a Written and a *vivâ voce* Examination on the group of subjects allotted to that class; if the Candidate fails on any one subject, at either the Written or the *vivâ voce* Examinations, he is not allowed credit for the Examination, and on coming up again, must be re-examined on all the subjects comprised in that group.

"12.—That Examiners should only be elected for definite periods, with power of reappointment."

The Examiners of this College hold office for the term of one year only, but are eligible for re-election.

"15.—That for the future the Licensing Bodies, which do not already do so, distinguish separately in their Returns the names and numbers of Candidates examined, and the numbers of those passed and rejected at the Examinations for each of the Qualifications conferred."

The wording of this Recommendation seems very obscure. The habit of this College has been to furnish the General Medical Council with the names of the Candidates passed, and the number, but not the names, of those rejected, a practice from which this Council sees no reason to depart.

"17.—That the Council recommend that, in the case of Certificates presented before admission to the Examinations of the several Licensing Bodies, each should include a statement from the Teacher or Teachers, that the Candidate had satisfactorily attended Examinations, from time to time, held on the subject of Study to which the Certificate relates. (Minutes of General Council, July 15, 1874, p. 51.)"

This Council are of opinion that every Candidate should have his merits decided upon by his several Examiners, on such evidence as he affords them at the time of his Examination. They cannot, therefore, approve of any extraneous influence being brought to bear on such decision.

“19.—That it is important that two Examiners, or an Examiner and Assessor, should be present at every Clinical as well as Oral Examination. (Minutes of General Council, July 12, 1869, Vol. vii., p. 132, sec. vi.)”

The Council of this College have complied with this Recommendation. (See Observations on Recommendation No. 6.)

“20.—That it be recommended that in no case should the Examination of a Candidate by any of the Licensing Bodies in any subject be conducted wholly, or in great part, by the Lecturer or Teacher in that subject in the School in which the Candidate has been educated. (Minutes of General Council, July 16, 1874, p. 60.)”

The Examiners of this College cannot, according to its Charter, whilst they hold office, be either Lecturers or Teachers.

“22.—That it is desirable that Candidates in Examinations in Anatomy should understand that they may be called upon to perform actual Dissections, and that Candidates in Examinations in Surgery should understand that they may be called upon to perform one or more Operations on the Dead Subject. (Minutes of General Council, June 22, 1875, p. 54.)”

With reference to this very mild expression of opinion upon the part of the General Medical Council, the Council of this College regret extremely that it is not of a more mandatory character. Such methods of testing Candidates for their Qualifications have been for some time in force at their several Examinations, and have proved themselves, in every respect, to be attended with most beneficial results. No doubt, difficulties can be alleged as existing in the way of carrying into effect this much-to-be-desired reform. Such difficulties, however, have been successfully encountered by this College.

APOTHECARIES' HALL, IRELAND.

THE APOTHECARIES' HALL OF IRELAND,
DUBLIN, 8th January, 1876.

DEAR SIR,

In reference to your letter of the 28th of July last, sent by direction of the Medical Council, with "the request for any Observations which the Apothecaries' Hall, Dublin, may have to offer on the Recommendations of the Council respecting Professional Examinations, and to inquire how far it has been able to carry into practice such Recommendations."

I have the honour to inform the Medical Council that these Recommendations have been approved of, and are being fairly carried out by the Hall.

I beg leave further to state, that the Council of the Apothecaries' Hall coincide with the Medical Council in its opinion "that it is desirable that the different Licensing Bodies should combine their Examinations, so as to secure that the knowledge of every Practitioner, whose name appears on the Register, shall have been tested in all the subjects which the Council has determined to be essential."

The Council of the Hall would also respectfully urge the great importance of having the Recommendation of the Medical Council regarding Certificates presented before admission to the Examinations of the several Licensing Bodies, extended to Clinical Teachers (see 'Professional Examinations,' section 17).

I remain, DEAR SIR,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) C. H. LEET,

Secretary.

TO FRANCIS HAWKINS, Esq., M.D.,
Registrar, General Medical Council.

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN.

SCHOOL OF PHYSIC,

TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN,

6th December, 1875.

SIR,

In reply to your letter of the 10th July last, enclosing Copies of Resolution of Council relative to the Teaching and Study of Pharmacy, I am instructed to forward to you the following Resolution of the Board of Trinity College, founded on a corresponding Resolution of the Professors of the School of Physic.

“The Board of Trinity College are of opinion that the Teaching of Therapeutics in the School of Physic in Ireland, is amply provided for by Hospital Teaching and by the Examinations for University Degrees, without the necessity for establishing an additional Course of Lectures.”

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) SAMUEL HAUGHTON,

Medical Registrar.

Dr. FRANCIS HAWKINS.

SCHOOL OF PHYSIC,

TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN,

10th December, 1875.

SIR,

Your letter of the 17th July last, and Copies of "Recommendations and Opinions of the General Medical Council," were laid before the Board of Trinity College, and the Professors of the School of Physic in Ireland.

I am instructed to inform you that the Board decline to examine in detail the numerous Recommendations and Opinions of the Council, and that they have directed me to forward to the General Medical Council ten Copies of the History and Regulations of the School of Physic in Ireland, so as to show to the Council the agreement or disagreement of those Regulations with the Recommendations and Opinions of the Council.

I am, SIR,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) SAMUEL HAUGHTON, Ch. M.D.,

Medical Registrar.

Dr. FRANCIS HAWKINS.

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REPLY OF THE PROVOST AND SENIOR FELLOWS OF TRINITY
COLLEGE AND COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
DUBLIN, TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND OPINIONS OF
THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL ON PROFESSIONAL
EXAMINATION.

Recommendation I.

“That it is desirable that the different Licensing Bodies should combine their Examinations, when this is practicable, so as to secure that the knowledge of every practitioner whose name appears on the Register shall have been tested in all the subjects of Professional Education which the Council has determined to be essential, *viz.*:—

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Anatomy. | 6. Practical Pharmacy. |
| 2. General Anatomy. | 7. Medicine. |
| 3. Physiology. | 8. Surgery. |
| 4. Chemistry. | 9. Midwifery. |
| 5. Materia Medica. | 10. Forensic Medicine.” |

The University of Dublin approves the principle of a Conjoint Examination, and has used its influence to promote such an Examination in Ireland, without success. The University of Dublin is not responsible for the failure of the attempt to establish a conjoint Examination in Ireland.

Recommendation II.

“That those Licensing Bodies which have not already done so, be requested to furnish a statement of the dates of their Examinations and of the modes in which such Examinations are conducted, whether by Written, Oral, or Practical Examination, and of the length of time a Candidate is under Examination, in each or all of these ways ; and that the Registrar transmit these Reports to the Members of the Council, in order that they may be taken into consideration at the next Meeting of the several Branch Councils.”

This has been done by the University of Dublin.

Recommendation III.

That the Professional Examination for any Licence be divided into two parts ; the first embracing the primary or fundamental branches directly connected with the practice of Medicine and Surgery ; that

the former be not undergone till after the close of the Winter Session of the second year of Professional Study ; and the latter, or Final Examination, not till after the close of the prescribed period of Professional Study."

In the University of Dublin there are Five Previous Examinations (called the Half M.B. Examinations) in the following subjects:—

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Descriptive Anatomy. | 4. Botany. |
| 2. Physics. | 5. Materia Medica. |
| 3. Chemistry. | |

No Candidate is allowed to present himself for the M.B. Degree Examination until he has passed each of the five above named Examinations ; and no Candidate is allowed to present himself for the B.Ch. Examination until he has passed the M.B. Examination. The minimum prescribed length of the Curriculum is four years, but the Candidate may present himself at the Half M.B. Examinations at any time he pleases. These Examinations are held at stated periods—four times in each year.

Recommendation IV.

"That the Examination in Physics, Botany, and Natural History may be undergone at an earlier period than the first Professional Examination."

The practice of the University of Dublin is in conformity with this Recommendation so far as regards Physics and Botany. All Medical Students are required to attend a Course of Lectures on Comparative Anatomy ; and this forms a part of the Examination for Medical Scholarships.

Recommendation V.

"That the Professional Examinations be conducted both in writing and orally ; and that they be practical in all branches in which they admit of being so."

This is the practice of the University of Dublin.

Recommendation VI.

"That not less than two Examiners, or one Examiner with an Assessor, should be present at every Oral Examination."

This is the practice of the University, in the case of the Clinical and Honor Examinations, in which two Examiners are present together ; but it has not been found to be necessary in the case of Ordinary Examinations.

Recommendation VII.

“That the Oral Examination should be so far public as to be open at least to the Medical and Surgical Graduates, or Members of the Examining Body.”

This is the practice of the University of Dublin.

Recommendation VIII.

“That the questions to be answered in writing should be so numerous, and embrace such a variety of the details of each subject, as may adequately test the proficiency of the Candidate; and that they should be submitted to the whole body of Examiners for consideration and revision, if desirable, before being proposed to the Candidates.”

The first part of this Recommendation is self-evident: but the latter portion is thought to be unnecessary for various reasons.

Recommendation IX.

“That the written answers should be submitted to more than one of the Examiners.”

The practice of the University of Dublin is to obtain the independent judgment of each Examiner, checked, if necessary, by an equally independent judgment of another Examiner, in the same subject; and it is submitted that this practice sufficiently carries out the Recommendation.

Recommendation X.

“That excellence in one or more subjects should not be allowed to compensate for failure in others.”

The principle involved in this Recommendation does not apply to the Half M.B. Examinations, nor to the Surgical Degree Examination, in all of which the Examination consists of homogeneous parts. In the Medical Degree Examination there are heterogeneous elements (*e.g.*, Surgery and Midwifery), and it has been the practice of the University of Dublin to pass or reject Candidates by the votes of the whole Court of Examiners, without giving a *veto* to any Examiner or subject. As a matter of fact, however, a Candidate deficient in both Surgery and Midwifery, would not succeed in passing the Medical Degree Examination.

Recommendation XI.

“That if a Candidate be rejected for failure in any one subject, he should be re-examined in all.”

It is the practice of the University of Dublin that a rejected Candidate must be re-examined in all subjects.

Recommendation XII.

"That Examiners should only be elected for definite periods with power of reappointment."

The University of Dublin approves this Recommendation so far as relates to Extern Examiners.

Recommendation XIII.

"That the Professional Examinations be held by the several Licensing Bodies, except in special cases, at stated periods, to be publicly notified."

The times of holding the Professional Examinations in the University of Dublin are fixed, and published in the University Calendar; and the practice of holding secret Examinations is unknown.

Recommendation XIV.

"That returns from the Licensing Bodies in Schedule [A] be made annually, on the 1st of January, and in the subjoined form, to the General Medical Council, stating the number and names of the Candidates who have passed their First as well as their Second and Third Examinations, and the number of those who have been rejected at the First and Second and Third Examinations respectively; and that the Registrar forward a sufficient number of Forms, with a notice for their being returned in due time.

"Table of Return of Professional Examinations and their Results."

LICENSING BODIES.	QUALIFICATIONS.	NO. PASSED.			NO. REJECTED.		
		1st Exam.	2nd Exam.	Final.	1st Exam.	2nd Exam.	Final.

This Table presupposes two Previous Examinations, and one Final Examination; it is the practice of the University of Dublin to hold five Previous Examinations, and one Final Examination. Our returns of the whole six Examinations have been made to the Medical Council on the principle of the foregoing Table, *viz.*, giving the names of the successful Candidates, and the numbers of the rejected Candidates.

Recommendation XV.

“That for the future the Licensing Bodies, which do not already do so, distinguish separately in their Returns the names and numbers of Candidates examined, and the numbers of those passed and rejected at the Examinations for each of the Qualifications conferred.”

This is the practice of the University of Dublin.

Recommendation XVI.

“That it is not desirable that any University of the United Kingdom should confer any Degree in Medicine or Surgery, whether that of Bachelor, Doctor, or Master, upon Candidates who have not graduated in Arts, or passed all the Examinations required for the Bachelorship in Arts, or the Examinations equivalent to those required for a Degree in Arts.”

The University of Dublin is of opinion that no Degrees in Medicine or Surgery should be conferred upon any Candidates, other than actual graduates in Arts. They disapprove the substitution of Examinations “required, or equivalent to those required, for a Degree in Arts,” for the “Actual Degree,” and the University of Dublin has ceased to confer *ad eundem* degrees upon Medical Graduates of Cambridge, because that University has ceased to require the “Actual Degree” in Arts as a preliminary to the Degree in Medicine.

The University of Dublin is further of opinion that the conferring of Degrees in Medicine or Surgery by the Universities upon non-graduates in Arts causes an unfair “competition downwards” with the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons.

Recommendation XVII.

“That the Council recommend that, in the case of Certificates presented before admission to the Examinations of the several Licensing Bodies, each should include a statement from the Teacher or Teachers, that the Candidate had satisfactorily attended Examinations, from time to time, held on the subject of Study to which the Certificate relates. (Minutes of General Council, July 15th, 1875, p. 51.)”

The University of Dublin approves the practice of occasional Class Examinations, left to the discretion of the Professors; but objects to the practice being made compulsory, as this might tend to substitute the Examinations of irresponsible Teachers for certificates of *bonâ fide* attendance upon Courses of Lectures.

Recommendation XVIII.

“That it is desirable that, in the Examinations on several of the subjects of the Curriculum—such, for example, as Botany, Zoology, Chemistry, and Materia Medica—the area of Examination should be limited and defined. (Minutes of General Council, July 15th, 1874, p. 51.)”

The University of Dublin approves this Recommendation.

Recommendation XIX.

“That it is important that two Examiners, or an Examiner and Assessor should be present at every Clinical as well as Oral Examination. (Minutes of General Council, July 12, 1869, vol. vii., p. 132, sec. vi.)”

This is the practice of the University of Dublin at all Clinical and Honour Examinations.

Recommendation XX.

“That it be recommended that in no case should the Examination of a Candidate by any of the Licensing Bodies in any subject be conducted, wholly or in great part, by the Lecturer or Teacher in that subject in the School in which the Candidate has been educated. (Minutes of General Council, July 16th, 1874, p. 60.)”

The University of Dublin approves of the addition of an external element in the Professional Examinations in addition to the Teachers of the School.

The following is the Composition of the existing Courts of Examiners: *—

	EXTERNS.	TEACHERS.
Half M.B. Exams.	4	7
M.B. Exam.	1	6
M. Ch. Exam.	2	4

* The increase of the external element in the M.B. Examination is under the consideration of the Board and University Council.

Recommendation XXI.

“That it is desirable that observation with the Microscope should form part of the Examinations of Candidates for a Licence. (Minutes of General Council, July 16th, 1874, p. 60.)”

This is the practice of the University of Dublin.

Recommendation XXII.

“That it is desirable that Candidates in Examinations in Anatomy should understand that they may be called upon to perform actual Dissections, and that Candidates in Examinations in Surgery should understand that they may be called upon to perform one or more Operations on the Dead Subject. (Minutes of General Council, June 22nd, 1875, p. 54.)”

The University of Dublin considers this Recommendation altogether inadequate; and are of opinion that Dissections and Operations upon the dead body should be compulsory at all Examinations in Anatomy and Surgery. The University of Dublin was the first Licensing Body in Ireland which made this practice compulsory,

(Signed) SAMUEL HAUGHTON,
Medical Registrar.

May 19, 1876.
